

Message Text

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10
ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 INSE-00 SS-15 H-02 SR-02 ORM-01

VO-03 SCA-01 AID-05 DODE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00 INR-07 PM-03

EB-07 L-02 /065 W
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R 090757Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3187

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6229

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF RP
SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 107782
(B) STATE 107164

ON SUBJECT 35 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD PANAMANIAN SHIP,
EMBASSY SENT FOLLOWING NOTE VERBALE TO PHILIPPINE DFA MAY
9, IN LIEU OF UTTERLY INEPT LANGUAGE PROVIDED REF B:

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND HAS THE
HONOR TO INFORM THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIETNAMESE REFUGEES PICKED UP IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OFF THE COAST OF VIETNAM BY AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS INFORMING ALL AMERICAN SHIPPING LINES OF THIS POLICY. THE EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD ADVISE THE EMBASSY OF ANY AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS CALLING IN PHILIPPINE PORTS WHICH MAY BE CARRYING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES SO IT MAY ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT.

CONSISTENT WITH THIS POLICY, THE UNITED STATES CON-
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SIDERS THAT REFUGEES PICKED UP BY VESSELS OF OTHER FLAGS

ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THOSE
VESSELS ARE REGISTERED, OR COUNTRIES WHERE THEY ARE LANDED
FROM SUCH VESSELS. THIS POLICY WOULD APPLY TO THE THIRTY-
FIVE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD THE PANAMANIAN VESSEL S.S.
EURYBATES, WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN PORT IN MANILA, WHO WERE
THE SUBJECT OF A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SECRETARY
ROMULO AND AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN ON MAY 5, 1975. IF THE
PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, FOR COMPASSIONATE REASONS, DECIDES
TO PERMIT THESE REFUGEES TO LAND IN MANILA, IT IS THE
EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
ON EUROPEAN MIGRATION ARE BOTH PREPARED TO BE OF SOME
ASSISTANCE IN THEIR RESETTLEMENT.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE. END QUOTE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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